AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a population of asset allocation alternatives to generate comparative statistics of investment performance for a whole-population of available asset allocation alternatives over a plurality of analysis periods, comprising the steps of:

providing investment performance data for a plurality of securities;

grouping these securities on the basis of this performance data into one of a plurality of market sectors inclusive of all markets available to an investor;

determining a series of periodic investment returns of each of the securities;

generating a series of the average of periodic investment returns for the population of securities within each of the plurality of market sectors;

determining a minimum allocation percentage increment for each of the market sectors;

determining allocation alternatives from the application of multiples of this minimum allocation percentage increment for each of the market sectors;

creating a ~~list~~ population of the all possible allocation alternatives that can be determined from the application of all multiples of this minimum allocation percentage increment for all determined market sectors;

calculating a series of weighted-average periodic returns for each of the allocation alternatives within that population; and

calculating analysis-period measures of investment performance for the population of all possible allocation alternatives and the series of weighted-average periodic returns.

2. (canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of market sectors is five.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of securities includes the type known as book-valued collective investment funds.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the series of analysis-period investment performance measures area series of five-year analysis periods initiated each quarter over the past forty years.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the market sector allocations are determined in minimum allocation percentage increments of 5 percent.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a total of 10,626 allocation alternatives are provided as the population of all possible allocation alternatives for each analysis period.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~selection and evaluation of investment portfolio~~ generating comparative statistics of investment performance for whole populations of asset allocation strategies, comprising the steps of:

acquiring performance data for a population of similar investments inclusive of all securities markets available to an investor;

calculating ~~the~~ an average of these periodic returns and a measurement of ~~the~~ a variance of the periodic returns around ~~this~~ the average returns for each investment;

grouping the investments into categories of investments having uniquely similar levels and patterns of investment risk, known as asset classes;

calculating ~~a series of~~ an average of the periodic returns for the population of securities within each asset class;

constructing a set of all possible asset allocation strategies, inclusive of an entire range of allocation strategies that can be derived from a population of securities, from the combination of all multiples of the minimum allocation percentage increment from each asset class;

calculating a series of periodic returns generated by each allocation alternative by multiplying the asset-class average periodic return by the percent of portfolio assets allocated to that asset class for each allocation alternative;

calculating the performance statistics for each allocation alternative for each analysis-period;

calculating population-comparison statistics for each analysis-period;

generating categories of allocation alternatives within each analysis-period population based on similar population-comparison statistics; and

~~standardizing~~ normalizing population-comparison statistics by recalculating the statistics to a standard scale in terms of deviation of the measure from a population average and comparing the statistics across a time-series of analysis-period populations.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the performance data is publicly-traded stocks and bonds.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the performance data is mutual funds, variable annuities and other book-valued collective investment funds.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the performance data acquired is a set of calculated investment returns for a contiguous set of time periods for each investment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein an analysis-period population is comprised of 10,626 allocation alternatives.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class is by arithmetic average.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class by average weighted by asset size.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the calculation of the average of the periodic returns for each asset class by average weighted by market value.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the population-comparison statistics include average return and periodic returns variance.

17. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the population-comparison statistics include differential return and the average and variance of average returns and returns variance for the population of categories of that population.